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Substance Abuse

By Dean Stout
Presiding Judge,
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Substance abuse, including the use of methamphetamine, and domestic violence are two of the most serious and prevalent problems facing our society and the criminal justice system today. Both of these issues are going to be addressed by nationally renowned speakers on Thursday November 16 in Bishop.

S. Alex Stalcup, M.D., an expert in the treatment of methamphetamine and prescription drug abuse, will be joined by Lt. Mark Wynn of Tennessee, and Gail Pincus, LCSW, both experts in domestic violence.

Many people would believe that you could only hear a lineup of speakers of this caliber at national conferences, but thanks to the very generous support of the Judicial Council of California's Administrative Office of the Courts, the Inyo County Domestic Violence Council is pleased to present these recognized experts and dynamic speakers right here in Inyo County.

Dr. Stalcup is the Director of the New Leaf Treatment Center in Lafayette, California. He is Board Certified in pediatrics, certified in Addiction Medicine by the American Society of Addiction Medicine, and certified as a Medical Review Officer. Following three years of work at the Ashbury Free Clinic in San Francisco, Dr. Stalcup opened a private practice, and since 1996 has served as the Director of the New Leaf Treatment Center. Two years ago, I was completely enthralled during Dr. Stalcup's presentation at the California Drug Court Professionals annual conference. He opened my eyes to many of the realities of methamphetamine, and provided very helpful information with respect to the treatment of persons addicted to methamphetamine and prescription drugs. Dr. Stalcup possesses the unique ability to communicate equally effectively to health care professionals as well as the lay people in his audience.

Being a survivor of family violence, and a twenty year veteran of law enforcement, Lt. Mark Wynn teaches both effectively and passionately. In 1995 he was named by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and Parade Magazine as one of the top ten police officers in the United States. Lt. Wynn has testified before Congress on the effects of mandatory arrest in incidents of family violence, and on the public health issue of violence in the family. In 1995 he was invited to the White House by President Clinton to deliver a speech on strategies to prevent domestic violence in the United

States.

Gail Pincus, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, is a recognized expert witness on the effects of domestic violence, and in particular on "Battered Women's Syndrome." Ms. Pincus is the Director of the Domestic Abuse Center in Northridge, California. She served on the California Family Court Services Domestic Violence Task Force, and regularly serves as a guest lecturer, media consultant, and expert witness in California courts.

Ms. Pincus frequently lectures at USC School of Social Work on the effects of domestic violence on children, and our speakers will be addressing issues related to domestic violence and children, including the effects of domestic violence on children, responding to children (the hidden victims of domestic violence), and drug endangered children.

The Symposium agenda allows time for break-out sessions by specific areas of interest, so to provide an opportunity for more in depth analysis of the presentations, and brainstorming about how to apply what we've learned on a local basis. The Domestic Violence Prevention Council hopes that the symposium will lead to further community dialog, and the development of a community based collaborative action plan to end abuse.

Leading up to the Symposium, the Domestic Violence Prevention Council is sponsoring a Children's Art Contest with the theme "It's My World, Help Make It Safe!" Selected art will be on display during the Symposium, and winning contributions will be printed in a 2007 calendar.

Whether we are talking about methamphetamine or domestic violence, it does "take a community to end abuse." I hope you will join us on November 16 and take advantage of this incredible educational program, and opportunity to move ahead as a community to end abuse.

The symposium will be held on Thursday November 16, 2006, at the First United Methodist Church in Bishop with the doors opening at 7:30 a.m., and the program running from 8:30 am. To 4:30 p.m. with lunch provided. Resource tables will be available during breaks, which will also provide an opportunity to view the prize winning art of our local youth. The Symposium registration deadline is October 15th and seating is limited. For registration or additional information about the symposium or children's art contest, please contact Doris Santiago at 873-4357, or by e-mail at icdomesticviolence@jaspen.com

In addition to the Administrative Office of the Courts, generous assistance is being provided in support of the symposium and art contest by the Owens Valley Career Development Center, Bishop Sunrise Rotary Club, Inyo County Health and Human Services, and Mono County Health and Human Services.